

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:

an apparatus body;

image forming means at least partly implemented by a replaceable part, which is removably mounted to said apparatus body;

sensing means for sensing a condition of use of the replaceable part that varies in accordance with use of said apparatus body;

first writable and readable non-volatile storing means in said apparatus body;

second writable and readable non-volatile storing means in the replaceable part;

accessing means for accessing said first storing means and said second storing means via a shared data bus; and

control means for sensing, at a time of image formation, a variation of the condition of use of the replaceable part via said sensing means, obtaining information representative of a condition after use from a sensed variation, writing, among said information, information relating to in-use operation specifications of said apparatus body in said second storing means as well as in said first storing means,

said control means configured to perform a comparison of the in-use operation specifications stored between the first and second storing means, and based on the comparison to determine whether the image forming means is in an operational state.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said control means determines, when an image forming operation begins, initial operation specifications in accordance with the information stored in said first storing means and

representative of a condition of the last use, causes said apparatus body to start operating under image forming conditions based on said initial operation specifications, and again sets, if the condition of the last use stored in said first storing means and the condition of the last use stored in said second storing means do not compare equal, image forming conditions in accordance with new operation specifications based on said condition stored in said second storing means.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said control means determines, when an image forming operation begins, initial operation specifications in accordance with the information stored in said first storing means and representative of a condition of the last use, causes said apparatus body to start operating under image forming conditions based on said initial operation specifications, and again determines, if the condition of the last use stored in said first storing means and the condition of the last use stored in said second storing means do not compare equal, whether or not to again set image forming conditions in accordance with new operation specifications based on said condition stored in said second storing means.

Claim 4 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein when the information stored in each of said first storing means and said second storing means is representative of a plurality of conditions after the last use, said control means determines whether or not to again set image forming conditions condition by condition.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): In an IC (Integrated Circuit) chip connected to a CPU (Central Processing Unit), which is in an apparatus body of an image forming apparatus, when mounted to said apparatus body, comprising:

writable and readable nonvolatile storing means accessible under a control of said CPU,

an access to said nonvolatile storing means is made via a data bus shared by said nonvolatile storing means and writable and readable nonvolatile storing means built in said apparatus body, and

said storing means configured to store among information representative of a condition of operation of said apparatus body that varies in accordance with an operation of said apparatus body, information relating to in-use operation specifications of said apparatus body when said IC chip is mounted to said apparatus body,

said CPU configured to perform a comparison of the in-use operation specifications stored between the storing means built in said apparatus body and the storing means of said IC chip, and based on the comparison to determine whether the image forming apparatus is in an operational state.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): In a replaceable part for an image forming apparatus including image forming means that is at least partly removable from an apparatus body of said image forming apparatus, said replaceable part comprising:

an IC chip connected to a CPU, which is in said apparatus body, when mounted to said apparatus body and including writable and readable nonvolatile storing means accessible under a control of said CPU, an access to said nonvolatile storing means is made via a data bus shared by said nonvolatile storing means and writable and readable nonvolatile storing means built in said apparatus body, and

said storing means configured to store among information representative of a condition of operation of said apparatus body that varies in accordance with an operation of said apparatus body, information relating to in-use operation specifications of said apparatus body is mounted to said apparatus body,

said control means configured to perform a comparison of the in-use operation

specifications stored between the storing means built in said apparatus body and the storing means of said IC chip, and based on the comparison to determine whether the image forming means is in an operational state.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:

an apparatus body;

an image forming unit at least partly implemented by a replaceable part, which is removably mounted to said apparatus body;

sensor configured to sense a condition of use of the replaceable part that varies in accordance with use of said apparatus body;

a first writable and readable non-volatile memory unit in said apparatus body;

a second writable and readable non-volatile memory unit in the replaceable part;

an accessing unit configured to access said first memory unit and said second memory unit; and

a controller configured to sense, at a time of image formation, a variation of the condition of use of the replaceable part via said sensor, obtain information representative of a condition after use from a sensed variation, and write, among said information, information relating to in-use operation specifications of said apparatus body in said second memory unit as well as in said first memory unit,

said controller configured to perform a comparison of the in-use operation specifications stored between the first and second memory units and based on the comparison to determine whether the image forming apparatus is in an operational state.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An apparatus comprising:

an apparatus body;

operating means at least partly implemented by a replaceable part, which is removably mounted to said apparatus body;

sensing means for sensing a condition of use of the replaceable part that varies in accordance with use of said apparatus body;

first writable and readable non-volatile storing means in said apparatus body;

second writable and readable non-volatile storing means in the replaceable part;

accessing means for accessing said first storing means and said second storing means via a shared data bus;

and control means for sensing, at a time of operation, a variation of the condition of use of the replaceable part via said sensing means, obtaining information representative of a condition after use from a sensed variation, writing, among said information, information relating to in-use operation specifications of said apparatus body in said second storing means as well as in said first storing means,

said control means configured to perform a comparison of the in-use operation specifications stored between the first and second storing means, and based on the comparison to determine whether the operating means is in an operation state.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said control means determines, when the operation begins, initial operation specifications in accordance with the information stored in said first storing means and representative of a condition of the last use, causes said apparatus body to start operating under operating conditions based on said initial operation specifications, and again sets, if the condition of the last use stored in said first storing means and the condition of the last use stored in said second storing means do not compare equal, operating condition in accordance with new operation specifications based on said condition stored in said second storing means.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said control means determines, when the operating begins, initial operation specifications in accordance with the information stored in said first storing means and representative of a condition of the last use, causes said apparatus body to start operating under operating conditions based on said initial operation specifications, and again determines, if the condition of the last use stored in said first storing means and the condition of the last use stored in said second storing means do not compare equal, whether or not to again set operating conditions in accordance with new operation specifications based on said condition stored in said second storing means.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein when the information stored in each of said first storing means and said second storing means is representative of a plurality of conditions after the last use, said control means determines whether or not to again set operating conditions condition by condition.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): In an IC (Integrated Circuit) chip connected to a CPU (Central Processing Unit), in an apparatus body of an apparatus, and mounted to said apparatus body, comprising:

writable and readable nonvolatile storing means accessible under a control of said CPU, an access to said non-volatile storing means is made via a data bus shared by said non-volatile storing means and writable and readable non-volatile storing means built in said apparatus body;

said storing means configured to store, among information representative of a condition of operation of said apparatus body that varies in accordance with an operation of said

apparatus body, information relating to in-use operation specifications of said apparatus body when said IC chip is mounted to said apparatus body; and

said CPU configured to perform a comparison of the in-use operation specifications stored between the storing means in said apparatus body and the storing means of said IC chip, and based on the comparison to determine whether the apparatus is in an operating state.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): In a replaceable part for an apparatus including operating means that is at least partly removable from an apparatus body of said apparatus, said replaceable part comprising:

an IC chip connected to a CPU, which is in said apparatus body, when mounted to said apparatus body and includes writable and readable non-volatile storing means accessible under a control of said CPU, an access to said non-volatile storing means is made via a data bus shared by said non-volatile storing means and writable and readable non-volatile storing means in said apparatus body; and

said storing means configured to store, among information representative of a condition of operation of said apparatus body that varies in accordance with an operation of said apparatus body, information relating to in-use operation specifications of said apparatus body is written to said storing means of said IC chip when said IC chip is mounted to said apparatus body; and

said control means configured to perform a comparison of the in-use operation specifications stored between the storing means in said apparatus body and the storing means of said IC chip, and based on the comparison to determine whether the operating means is in an operating state.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An apparatus comprising:

an apparatus body;

an operating unit at least partly implemented by a replaceable part, which is removably mounted to said apparatus body;

a sensor configured to sense a condition of use of the replaceable part that varies in accordance with use of said apparatus body;

a first writable and readable non-volatile memory unit in said apparatus body;

a second writable and readable non-volatile unit in the replaceable part;

an accessing unit configured to access said first memory and said second memory unit;

and

a controller configured to sense, at a time of operation, a variation of the condition of use of the replaceable part via said sensor, obtain information representative of a condition after use from a sensed variation, and write, among said information, information relating to in-use operation specifications of said apparatus body in said second memory unit as well as in said first memory unit,

said controller configured to perform a comparison of the in-use operation specifications stored between the first and second memory units and based on the comparison to determine whether the apparatus is in an operational state.

Claim 15 (New): An image forming apparatus comprising:

an apparatus body;

image forming means at least partly implemented by a replaceable part, which is removably mounted to said apparatus body;

sensing means for sensing a condition of use of the replaceable part that varies in accordance with use of said apparatus body;

first writable and readable non-volatile storing means in said apparatus body;

second writable and readable non-volatile storing means in the replaceable part;
accessing means for accessing said first storing means and said second storing means
via a shared data bus; and

control means for sensing, at a time of image formation, a variation of the condition of
use of the replaceable part via said sensing means, obtaining information representative of a
condition after use from a sensed variation, writing, among said information, information
relating to operation specifications of said apparatus body in said second storing means as well
as in said first storing means,

said control means configured to perform a comparison of the operation specifications
stored between the first and second storing means, and based on the comparison to determine
whether the image forming means is in an operational state,

wherein said control means determines, when an image forming operation begins,
operation specifications in accordance with the information stored in said first storing means
and representative of a condition of the last use, causes said apparatus body to start operating
under image forming conditions based on said operation specifications, and again sets, if the
condition of the last use stored in said first storing means and the condition of the last use stored
in said second storing means do not compare equal, image forming conditions in accordance
with new operation specifications based on said condition stored in said second storing means.

Claim 16 (New): An image forming apparatus comprising:

an apparatus body;

image forming means at least partly implemented by a replaceable part, which is
removably mounted to said apparatus body;

sensing means for sensing a condition of use of the replaceable part that varies in
accordance with use of said apparatus body;

first writable and readable non-volatile storing means in said apparatus body;
second writable and readable non-volatile storing means in the replaceable part;
accessing means for accessing said first storing means and said second storing means
via a shared data bus; and

control means for sensing, at a time of image formation, a variation of the condition of
use of the replaceable part via said sensing means, obtaining information representative of a
condition after use from a sensed variation, writing, among said information, information
relating to operation specifications of said apparatus body in said second storing means as well
as in said first storing means,

said control means configured to perform a comparison of the operation specifications
stored between the first and second storing means, and based on the comparison to determine
whether the image forming means is in an operational state,

wherein said control means determines, when an image forming operation begins,
operation specifications in accordance with the information stored in said first storing means
and representative of a condition of the last use, causes said apparatus body to start operating
under image forming conditions based on said operation specifications, and again determines,
if the condition of the last use stored in said first storing means and the condition of the last use
stored in said second storing means do not compare equal, whether or not to again set image
forming conditions in accordance with new operation specifications based on said condition
stored in said second storing means.

Claim 17 (New): An apparatus comprising:

an apparatus body;
operating means at least partly implemented by a replaceable part, which is removably
mounted to said apparatus body;

sensing means for sensing a condition of use of the replaceable part that varies in accordance with use of said apparatus body;

first writable and readable non-volatile storing means in said apparatus body;

second writable and readable non-volatile storing means in the replaceable part;

accessing means for accessing said first storing means and said second storing means via a shared data bus;

and control means for sensing, at a time of operation, a variation of the condition of use of the replaceable part via said sensing means, obtaining information representative of a condition after use from a sensed variation, writing, among said information, information relating to operation specifications of said apparatus body in said second storing means as well as in said first storing means,

said control means configured to perform a comparison of the operation specifications stored between the first and second storing means, and based on the comparison to determine whether the operating means is in an operation state,

wherein said control means determines, when the operation begins, operation specifications in accordance with the information stored in said first storing means and representative of a condition of the last use, causes said apparatus body to start operating under operating conditions based on said operation specifications, and again sets, if the condition of the last use stored in said first storing means and the condition of the last use stored in said second storing means do not compare equal, operating condition in accordance with new operation specifications based on said condition stored in said second storing means,

Claim 18 (New): An apparatus comprising:

an apparatus body;

operating means at least partly implemented by a replaceable part, which is removably

mounted to said apparatus body;

sensing means for sensing a condition of use of the replaceable part that varies in accordance with use of said apparatus body;

first writable and readable non-volatile storing means in said apparatus body;

second writable and readable non-volatile storing means in the replaceable part;

accessing means for accessing said first storing means and said second storing means via a shared data bus;

and control means for sensing, at a time of operation, a variation of the condition of use of the replaceable part via said sensing means, obtaining information representative of a condition after use from a sensed variation, writing, among said information, information relating to operation specifications of said apparatus body in said second storing means as well as in said first storing means,

said control means configured to perform a comparison of the operation specifications stored between the first and second storing means, and based on the comparison to determine whether the operating means is in an operation state,

wherein said control means determines, when the operating begins, operation specifications in accordance with the information stored in said first storing means and representative of a condition of the last use, causes said apparatus body to start operating under operating conditions based on said operation specifications, and again determines, if the condition of the last use stored in said first storing means and the condition of the last use stored in said second storing means do not compare equal, whether or not to again set operating conditions in accordance with new operation specifications based on said condition stored in said second storing means.